

IN THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A system for searching for and presenting collections of conventional objects, comprising:
 - 3 a computerized system;
 - 4 a display unit controllable by said computerized system;
 - 5 a selection unit influencing what said computerized system depicts with said display unit;
 - 6 a meta-folder containing at least one search object for locating current instances of the conventional objects in said computerized system;
 - 7 wherein a closed representation of said meta-folder is depictable on said display unit, said 8 closed representation being selectable and open able with said selection unit; and 9 further wherein an open representation of said meta-folder is also depictable on said 10 display unit, said open representation of said meta-folder including 11 representations of said current instances of the conventional objects.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein said computerized system includes a network, a client 2 device which is connectable to said network, and at least one server which is connected to said 3 network, such that said client device may access instances of the conventional objects, said 4 search objects, and said meta-folders which are stored on said at least one server.
- 1 3. The system of claim 2, wherein said network is a global communications network.
- 1 4. The system of claim 2, wherein said client device is a member of the set consisting of 2 personal computers and enhanced devices.
- 1 5. The system of claim 2, wherein said search object is provided as a file and may be freely 2 transferred and stored within said computer system.
- 1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein said display unit depicts using non-visual representations.

1 7. The system of claim 1, wherein said display unit depicts using at least one member of the
2 set consisting of visual, audible, and tactile representations.

1 8. The system of claim 1, wherein said selection unit is a user operated input device.

1 9. The system of claim 1, wherein said selection unit is an automated process.

1 10. The system of claim 1, wherein said meta-folder further includes at least one member of
2 the set consisting of conventional objects and other said meta-folders.

1 11. A method for searching for and presenting collections of conventional objects in a
2 computerized system having a display unit and a selection unit, the method comprising the steps
3 of:

4 (a) depicting a meta-folder with the display unit as a closed representation, wherein said
5 meta-folder contains at least one previously defined search object;
6 (b) selecting and opening said meta-folder with the selection unit;
7 (c) resolving all said search objects in said meta folder into current instances of the
8 conventional objects which are findable within the computerized system; and
9 (d) depicting said meta-folder with the display unit as an open representation which
10 includes said current instances of the conventional objects which are thus found.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said meta-folder is provided as a file and the method
2 further comprises transferring said file from a storage medium into the computerized system.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein:
2 the computerized system includes a network, a client device which is connectable to said
3 network, and a server which is connected to said network; and
4 said meta-folder is stored on said server;
5 and the method further comprises:
6 connecting said client device to said server via said network; and
7 accessing said meta-folder on said server via said network.

1 14. The method of claim 11, wherein
2 said meta-folder is a parent meta-folder;
3 said parent meta-folder further includes at least one member of the set consisting of
4 conventional objects and other said meta-folders;
5 step (c) includes resolving all said search objects in all said meta folders into current
6 instances of the conventional objects which are findable in the computerized
7 system; and
8 step (d) includes depicting said open representation including said current instances of all
9 the conventional objects which are thus found.

1 15. The method of claim 11, wherein said step (a) and said step (d) include depicting with the
2 display unit using non-visual representations.

1 16. The method of claim 11, wherein said step (a) and said step (d) include depicting with the
2 display unit using at least one member of the set consisting of visual, audible, and tactile
3 representations.

1 17. A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for searching for and
2 presenting collections of conventional objects in a computer system having a display unit and a
3 selection unit, comprising:

- 4 (a) a code segment that depicts a meta-folder with the display unit as a closed
5 representation, wherein said meta-folder contains at least one previously defined
6 search object;
- 7 (b) a code segment that selects and opens said meta-folder upon instruction from the
8 selection unit;
- 9 (c) a code segment that resolves all said search objects in said meta folder into current
10 instances of the conventional objects which are findable in the computerized
11 system; and
- 12 (d) a code segment that depicts an open representation of said meta-folder with the
13 display unit which includes said current instances of the conventional objects
14 which are thus found.

1 18. The computer program of claim 17, wherein said meta-folder is provided as a file, and
2 the computer program further comprising a code segment that transfers said file from a storage
3 medium into the computerized system.

1 19. The computer program of claim 17, wherein:
2 the computerized system may include a network, a client device which is connectable to
3 said network, and a server which is connected to said network; and
4 said meta-folder may be stored on said server; and
5 the computer program further comprising:
6 a code segment that connects said client device to said server via said network; and
7 a code segment that accesses said meta-folder on said server via said network.

1 20. The computer program of claim 17, wherein said code segment (a) and said code segment
2 (d) depict using non-visual representations with the display unit.

1 21. The computer program of claim 17, wherein said code segment (a) and said code segment
2 (d) using at least one member of the set consisting of visual, audible, and tactile representations
3 with the display unit.

1 22. The computer program of claim 17, wherein
2 said meta-folder is a parent meta-folder;
3 said parent meta-folder further includes at least one member of the set consisting of
4 conventional objects and other said meta-folders;
5 said code segment (c) resolves all said search objects in all said meta folders into current
6 instances of the conventional objects which are findable in said computerized
7 system; and
8 said code segment (d) depicts an open representation of said parent meta-folder including
9 said current instances of all the conventional objects which are thus found.